REGISTER OF CLASSIFICATION DECISIONS

Date of entry in Register:	27 February 2002
Name of applicant/court:	Jennifer Mary Ryan, Naomi Service, Renee-Aloise Krall
Applicant to the Labelling Body:	Not Applicable
Title of Publication:	Till Death Do Us Part
Other Known Titles:	Not Stated
Director:	Not Stated
Producers:	John Bido, James Smith, N.O. Joe, Tony Randle
Publisher:	Not Applicable
Artist:	Geto Boys
Format:	Compact Disc Sound Recording
Country of Origin:	USA
Language:	English

Components of film originally examined: Not Applicable.

Feature: Running time:

Trailers: Running time:

Total Running time:

Excision/Alteration: Not Applicable.

Reason(s) for Excision:

Not Applicable.

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Classification Decision:

Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 18 years.

Display Conditions:

Nil.

Descriptive Note:

Not Applicable.

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Direction to issue a label has been given on: Not Applicable.

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SUMMARY OF THE REASONS FOR DECISION:

The compact disc sound recording *Till Death Do Us Part* is classified as:
Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 18 years.

The album is in "gangsta" rap style. The main issues considered are the album's treatment of violence, including sexual violence, the misogynistic language and attitudes expressed in the lyrics, and the extent and nature of the sexual references included.

Consideration leads to the conclusion that the violence portrayed is likely to disturb listeners, and that the album's pervasive violence and anti-authority sentiments provide models which may tend to encourage attitudes which could lead to violent criminal behaviour in at-risk young people. The evidence examined suggests that the album is unlikely to encourage violent or destructive acts in an adult audience capable of making a balanced evaluation of the material. However, concerns remain that young people may be vulnerable to its anti-authority message.

The album's misogyny, expressed with particular intensity in a scenario that combines sexual violence and murder, is a major concern. Given the role of music in teenage culture and the manner in which music provides models for the formation of attitudes, there is a danger that impressionable young people, especially teenage boys, will be affected by lyrics that appear to legitimise misogyny. The likely injury lies in the contribution of the material to the formation and reinforcement of negative attitudes towards women, and the possibility that these attitudes will lead to gender-based harms.

The classification of this sound recording is consistent with Parliament's intention that the availability of publications that are likely to be injurious to the public good should be restricted, and it is the lowest possible restriction on the freedom of expression consistent with this intention.

OFLC Ref: 101351